



# KEY NOTE



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**SUBS**  
Cheques etc. to FISTS C.W. CLUB.  
N. America to WZBC, others to HQ.  
UK: £5, EEC: £6, Europe: £7  
N. America: \$15.00. others: £10.

**NETS**  
Sunday :0930 & 1430 on 7029. G0IHK  
Sunday 2000Z 14.058 KC4UUG  
Saturday: US Net 1500 UTC on 14.058  
Thursday 0100 UTC 3.720  
DX 7/14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins  
Pse keep watch all Novice allocations  
UK Net Controls use GX0IPXP

## Listings

Up-dated listings may be obtained from N8IAG. Pse send SASE.

## NA FISTS QSL BURO

N. A. QSL Manager : N8FU - John Hugentober , 4441  
Andreas-Ave , Cincinnati, OH 45211. Pse SASE

## SUBS

Your renewal date is printed on your mailing label.

## GREETINGS

**H**i people. This month I include for the UK and Europe a listing (call v name/number) as previously promised. I do not want to do this too often because of the large difference in postage and extra paper demanded. Again, I would encourage those of you with computers (however basic) to set up your own index which can periodically be updated from HQ or, failing this, construct a simple card index. The usual 3 months warning of subs overdue which cost us three months postage was being blatantly ignored by a small minority of members who clearly only joined the club for the sake of the certificate. I found this even more painful because of the number of members who could not even extend the courtesy of putting a few lines on paper and pop it into the post box. Employing the red reminder stamp and highlighting the article on subs jogged the memories of quite a number but the success rate was relatively insignificant. I now propose to staple a printed reminder to the newsletter for the first month when subs are overdue and if this is ignored deletion will be automatic though reinstatement will as usual be a simple formality on payment of subs. This has at least saved the space for what was really a space hungry reminder on page one. Please make a point of checking your envelope when you receive your Keynote so that you are aware of your renewal date and make a note of this. Many of you will have received - as I did - outstanding QSL cards and an invitation to submit labels and stamps to the G-QRP club for their bureau. I shall be asking Bob to send labels and stamps for **GX0IPX** since the cards received were directed to **G3ZQS** and it is likely that cards for the club may well exist but are not recognised. This is a good time to remind you that

if you mark your cards with RNARS, RAFARS, RSARS or G-QRP, Bob will forward these automatically at no additional cost to you.

Heard on 80m: "I run PACKET, AMTOR, RTTY and SSB but when I need to relax and have fun I go back to cw".

Last month's article on MEGS brought a note of appreciation from George, **GM4HYF**, who remarks that a number of FISTS have already called in on the net and he finds it most gratifying that they are prepared to QRS down to any demanded speed.

Checking through the spreadsheet prior to updating the list I found a few members who had sent in their subs but had not been updated. Whilst these have been corrected I received a note from Angie pointing out that one of our EI members had received no Key-note and on checking the record I found that a logical field which showed that Keynote should be posted was blank and had been interpreted as "false" by the database manager. As far as I am aware, this is the first time this has happened and steps have been taken to seed the field as "true" demanding a correction if this should not be the case.

## MORSUM MAGNIFICAT

A recent letter from Tony, **G4FAL** advises me that the issue of MM (Nr. 38) due out at the end of Feb/95 contains an 8-page summary of the IARU's 26-page document titled "The Morse Code and Amateur Radio - A summary from the work of the IARU CW Ad Hoc Committee". This paper describes how deeply the committee went into the subject before the IARU Administrative Council decided "to neither propose nor support any change to the international radio regulations pertaining to Morse Code".

This is an important document which puts the controversy over the Morse test into a proper perspective and also details the extraordinary support there is for a retention of the test at the present time among the IARU Regions and various National societies around the world.

Single copies of this issue are available from the editorial office as detailed in regular advertisements in Keynote and other publications. For the UK, a single copy is £2.20 inclusive of postage but for the USA etc., it is \$5.00 cash.

## ORACLE

Our Ralph, **ZL2AOH** submits several pages of print out from packet exhorting NZ members to support the organisation whose main activity is to lobby the Ministry of Commerce and persuade the government to propose changes to ITU RR 2735. In short, they are just another bunch who, despite knowing the rules before engaging in Amateur Radio, are bent upon changing the rules to suit themselves. The group claims that they are not anti Morse; "The use of Morse is a matter of personal preference. Under ORACLE policy, Morse code testing would be maintained as one of the alternative ways of qualifying for full privileges. Oracle policies do NOT advocate the abolition of Morse Code testing.

It is pointed out that the 1993 survey elicited a response from only 15% of the Amateur population thereby implying that the remaining 85% of Amateurs would be biased in favour of a change. As is always the case, those who have nothing to moan or yell about become the "Silent Majority" and their silence should quite correctly be taken to infer that they are satisfied with the status quo.

## KORREXN

Rileys' internet address of last month was hit by punctuation transversal syndrome - for comma read full stop. Hi. should be: [riley.williams @f73.n259.z2.fidonet.org](mailto:riley.williams@f73.n259.z2.fidonet.org) and please observe lower case! I have yet to hear from Riley (wot about those titles mate?) but sure he will be giving me some copy in the near future.

## UPGRADE

Congratulations to Jon **BRS95333** who is now identified as **GM0VIY**. Get on the bands Jon, sure the gang will be itching to work you.

## FROM ACROSS THE POND

Nancy's memo is with me and as usual presents a lively and interesting addendum to keynote. Too much to reproduce here but I like the article from **WE6V** (Jim): *(Here Geo reprints Jim's article in it's entirety, which I didn't include because we printed it last month, but I thought you would like to know it has been read in the DX version also! Nancy)*

A quote from **W8ZNH**: "Amateur Radio may be 'only' a hobby but it is one which is licensed by the federal government and puts it's members in a position to be heard internationally and instantaneously and so demands responsibility from its practitioners".

Don's QSO parties leave us in Europe with a feeling that nothing is happening. During 1994 there were 48 parties with 420 check-ins. 351 NA FISTS, 40 NA guests, 23 DX FISTS and 6 DX guests. The DX champion was Frank, **G0LWI** who somehow made it across the pond 6 times in spite of horrible condx. The champion NA check-in was Maggie **NP2GP** with a perfect score and was always there ready to take over the net if need be.

Joe, **AA8HV** reports on the ISOTRON antenna which is selling over there for about \$80.00 and aimed at the

80m band. Amazingly, the antenna measures 22 x 16 x 15 inches. He is most enthusiastic and reports interstate RST599 on both QRP and QRO.

Nancy must also have received some negative feedback from the I. M. Lumpy article remarking "From now on, if you have an opinion you want to spout off about, I am printing your name (Even if we ARE related, Lumpy!).

Other snippets: Dave **AC4FN** suggests RS10 and RS12 satellites. There's plenty of cw activity and even low power gets you in. **AA0IQ**, Claude sent Nancy a couple of piccies showing a key which he received in 1937 at the age of 12. **KF6GR** owns a WBL Vertical Single Lever paddle and says it is a pleasure to use. **WA4OSR** (the new owner of Vibroplex) plans to introduce the first straight key with that hallowed name. Should be interesting! **N1DWA** has upgraded from General to Extra at the tender age of 72 years.

## AC4VL RAT

Greg runs a neat home-brew antenna he calls RAT (Remote Controlled Antenna Tuned) which permits operation on all 9 HF bands with 90 feet of wire in inverted vee orientation. Run RG8 to the tuner (up to 100 feet away) and connect one end of the wire to the tuner. He made the tuner with standard 250pf variable caps and a 28 microhenry roller coaster. Because it is digital and uses stepper motors to drive the components it is highly accurate. He uses three pots on a regulated psu to govern the ATU. He is now planning to hang about 300 feet of wire from a balloon or kite and see what he gets but his current 90 feet compares well with the R7 vertical.

## POSTCODE AWARD

1990 marked the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black the the Civil Service ARS marked the occasion with the issue of a number of awards based on the 120 Postcode areas within the UK. I detail below rules as presented from the CSARS:

(1) The Award is for working amateur radio stations in a specified number of Postcode Areas in the United Kingdom. The Postcode Area is the area represented by the initial letter or letters which precede the first numeral in the postcode address from which the station worked was operating at the time of the qualifying contact.

(2) The qualifying date for eligible QSOs is 6 May 1990, the 150th anniversary of the issue by the UK Post Office of the Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp.

(3) The Award is available in three classes:-

Bronze: for working 75 UK Postcode Areas;

Silver: for working 100 UK Postcode Areas;

Gold: for working all 120 UK Postcode Areas.

(4) A QSO with a Civil Service Amateur Radio Society HQ callsign (**G1CSR**, **G3CSR**, **GB0CSR**, **GX1CSR** or **GX3CSR**) may be substituted for ONE missing Postcode Area in order to make up the number required for any Class of Award.

(5) For the first 120 Gold Awards, the certificate issued will be accompanied by an additional award of the special Miniature Sheet issued by the British Post Office to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black.

(6) Subject to rules 8, 9 and 10 below, the "General" category Award in any Class may be claimed where the requisite number of Postcode Areas has been worked using any combination of modes and bands including cross-mode and cross-band. For the purpose of this rule "modes" shall mean J3E, F3E, A3A and A1A and "bands" shall mean all amateur bands whether HF or VHF and including WARC bands on which the applicant and the station worked are permitted to operate under the terms of their respective licences.

(7) To each class may be added one or more of the following endorsements which will be shown in the category citation on the Award certificate:-

Phone only (i.e. any combination of J3E, F3E and A3A): cross-mode QSOs permitted provided both modes are telephony;

J3E Only: cross-mode QSOs not permitted;

F3E and/or A3A Only: cross-mode QSOs not permitted except between these two modes;

A1A Only: cross-mode QSOs not permitted;

HF Only (i.e. the 28 MHz band and below): cross-band QSOs permitted provided both bands are HF;

VHF Only (50 MHz and above): cross-band QSOs permitted provided both bands are VHF;

Single Band (the band will be specified in the category citation); cross-band QSOs not permitted.

(8) Contacts made via repeaters do not count towards the Award.

(9) QSOs with stations using the suffix /M or /MM do not count towards the Award.

(10) QSOs with stations using the suffix /P count towards the Award only if the station worked is operating at a postal address.

(11) Eligible QSOs may be made from any one or more postal addresses from which the applicant is permitted to operate using the same callsign. For the purposes of this rule "the same callsign" shall include a callsign used with or without the addition of the suffix /P provided that the rest of the callsign remains unchanged and that at the time of the relevant QSO the applicant, even if using the suffix /P, is operating from a postal address.

(12) QSOs with stations in the Isle of Man (GD or G5), Jersey (GJ or GH) or Guernsey (GU or GP) do not count towards the Award as these territories which do not form part of the United Kingdom, have their own postal administrations and were not postcoded at the starting date for the Award.

(13) The confirmation of an eligible QSO by a QSL card is not required and QSL cards should NOT be enclosed with the application for the Award.

(14) Applications should include:

(a) the callsign of the applicant;

(b) the name and full postal address (including postcode where applicable) of the operator or (in the

case of a club callsign) of the club or society concerned.

(c) a list of eligible QSOs claimed showing:

(i) Postcode Area of the station worked;

(ii) Callsign of the station worked;

(iii) Date (which must be on or after 6 May 1990 - (rule 2);

(iv) Band;

(v) Mode;

(d) the following certification signed by the applicant (or in the case of a club callsign by an officer of the club or society concerned) and countersigned by two other licensed radio amateurs:-

"We hereby certify that the details of the QSOs listed above conform with the relevant entries in the logbook of ....."

(15) The Award is also available to Short Wave Listeners on a "heard" basis. Applications from SWLs should include the details shown in rule 14 above with the following amendments:-

(a) the applicant's SWL No. (if any);

(i) Postcode Areas of station heard;

(ii) Callsign of station heard;

(iii) an additional column showing Callsign of station being worked (the column headed "For Official Use" may be used for this purpose.

(16) the fee for the Award is £3.00 sterling or US \$4.00 or 12 IRCs

(17) Applications should be sent together with the fee to:- Civil Service Amateur Radio Society,

Civil Service Recreation Centre,

Monck St.,

LONDON SW1 2BL.

Claim sheets are available from the above address though for the convenience of members, I hold a claim form which is available for copying. The information also included two maps detailing the UK and associated postcode areas though a footer advises that the postcode information is copyright of the Post Office so I am not sure if it would be in order to reproduce.

### THEY ARE COMING YOUNGER

An interesting slant from G3WGL who echoes the thoughts expressed in quite a few letters concerning the passing of the cw exam by a young girl. "I know I am a stupid, ancient piece of turf so forgive me for not joining in the cacahony of adulation. First and foremost, I am not decrying their undoubted talents, I applaud their brilliance, I bow to the accomplishments of 10 year old girls and to the superbility(?) of the young Amateurs of the year. In racing terms, they have passed the post before I have saddled up!

But let's have a think; a great many of these youngsters are brought up in classrooms awash with computers, science classes abound, goodies such as PC boards, tailored units, components, Hi-tec books and pamphlets are at their finger tips. At this young age, they are most receptive and on a Learning Curve. I admit that something has to be there and probably is but what an assist!

If you can hark back to the 'Dark Days', how long did it take government agencies to teach us the most abstruse and technical stuff, not only teaching but equipping us to go out and do the job well and all from scratch?

What were you - 18? How long the course - 6 months occasionally 9? Do you recall the 'time servers' crying in their beer, telling us how many years they were tea boys and how many years as improvers? You can't condense 7 years into 6 months! Try telling that to the government".

"I should venture to say that in the year 2095 there will be no Amateurs - just a few leftovers. Should the 11 year old Nuclear Scientist of the year wish to speak to an old hand he will simply key in G41ABC as all the details are in the machine. Bingo! Somewhere in the world a light on a consol will flash, a unit will beep and a musical jingle to the tune of 'A Gordon for me' starts up ... 'A CQ for you, A CQ for you, are you there dear old Willi? A CQ for you' Old Willi walks into his shack, sits in his yureform adjustable amateur chair pressing buttons on his remote control as he watches lights light, readouts read out then, with a deft flick of the wrist Screen Blank ... Sound Off cos he is a miserable old git who does not like 11 year old nuclear scientists. CW will become an esoteric cult. People will whisper behind their hands 'He can read Morse'. It will be on a par with Esperanto and Pablo Picasso.

I love the last bit of Tekno Speek from the ARRL/FCC - complex powerful digital techniques - roll it around the tongue, taste every little vowel and remember we shall have to swallow it:-

SYSTEMISED DIGITAL THIRD GENERATION CAPABILITY

RESPONSIVE INCREMENTAL INTEGRATED TIME PHASE

SYNCHRONIZED TRANSITIONAL CRITERIAL FLEXIBILITY

Hope I've earned a listing?"

#### CLARITY FOR CHARITY

From K. Malone (a recent swl member) who spent many years at sea as R/O I impart the following:

SOS received from Indian vessel in Red Sea. Boilers failed, no power, drifting towards beach. I responded saying heading to assist but Indian vessel noted we were a loaded tanker. Nervous about our help so accepted assist from an Ellerman Dempster "City" job out of Liverpool. Comms working good but 2 hours later within visual range, master decided to use VHF voice to complete the rescue. Master of City job very "Scouse" (for o/s members, thick Liverpool accent) which must have helped the Bengali master not a lot especially in his nervous state. Continued to work with R/O of Indian vessel, Blue funnel job in area also copying. Completed approach and was able to affect rescue. If 25KHz deviated FM with 25 watt output at 6 miles cannot ensure effective communication between two seafarers, let's keep the methodical and internationally accepted means of cool clear communication that cw has always provided.

#### ST2AA ON 17M

Ali is operating **ST2AA** on 18.088 reserving a period from 1300z daily for FISTS contacts. It was Roy, **G4SSH** who alerted me by phone where I found a weak and watery **ST2AA** calling me. We did make it but a QSY to 15m proved empty despite the fact that I had the advantage of the beam and Ali's signal was up a few db compared to 18.088. I shall doubtless make it again on 17m but in the mean time, all of you with a few minutes to spare around 1300z pse monitor the above QRG and see if you can find him.

#### INFLATION

So; you thought you were having it rough with rising prices. I haven't had a haircut for 6 months and it seems every other month the cost of getting paralytic rises significantly. Be grateful. The Rad Com reports that what with the somewhat flaky postal services amongst other things, the Amateur in the CIS is faced with a charge equating to 50p per batch and the Post Office rubs salt into the wounds by telling 'em that it is about to rise **THREE FOLD**.

#### ACTIVITY

Oh yes. In between all the things I find myself having to do these days - washing, cooking, kleeing and cussin' I did manage to find some time to get on the bands to be greeted by quite a few members who I have not worked before. **HA2MP**, **G10VGV** and **G0MKJ** are on the tail end of some 15 FISTS who found their way onto my database for the first time. The bands have been as weird as the weather and how strange can that get I ask. It is mid February and already the trees are showing bud. I spotted a magpie hauling twigs and the local blackbirds are beginning to make amorous advances to their opposite numbers. And yet we have the occasional flurry of snow and forecasts of further frosts. Most odd. 20m yeilded **VK6** on four occasions with the odd **JA** thrown in for good measure and that was on the short path. I also managed to work a number of our members on 80. 599 from **DL** land and often enough a squeaky 449 from the **UK** (though admittedly most of 'em were using QRP) An **SM** station was howling in and put **AGC** in circuit out of curiosity - he was no less than 40db over **S9**. The band's gone **DXy** I thought but just to make a liar out of me South Coast FISTS came booming in at near the same strength. The **US** remains doggedly obstinate and apart from the big guys running multi kilowatts into multi-element full size beams up near the ozone layer they have been few and far between. A telling bone call dragged me away from the newsletter to 18MHz where Ali, **ST2AA** was yelling for me. I leamed that he is blightly bound and will be back in the **UK** on the 27th - maayhap before you read this. One local station who should have been raising smoke from a loaded screwdriver from a damp basement. When I commented on this he came back at full whack- **Sri Geo** = fergot to switch **PA** in" and considering he runs a sophisticated QRP rig he must have been on a couple of microwatts Hi.

## FROM SAUDI ARABIA

Despite his semi-permanent residence in the Magic Kingdom, Andy G0JLX found time to write in and offer his services as Computer Chapter Mgr. Thank you for the offer Andy and I hope you can find time to drop Riley a line.

He has been moved some 1000Km South to the delightful region known as Asir (or Azir) which forms the southern mountain range on the West side of Saudi from Jeddah down to Yemen. The new location (Khamis Mushayt) is some 6800 feet ASL conveniently located some 90 minutes drive down the escarpment to the Red Sea for weekend beaching, diving etc., and an 8-10 hour drive up to Taif or Jeddah. The flying time to Jeddah is just 40 minutes. He is enjoying beautiful weather up at that elevation though it is definitely jumper and gloves orders late evenings and early mornings.

Unfortunately, there is virtually no chance of Amateur Radio and he has heard nothing more of moves to persuade the government to issue individual licences except to the very very few who have the right connections but he is keeping his fingers crossed. Hi.

We have hopes that Andy will be returning to blighty in 96 on a permanent basis and he plans to organise a decent Amateur Station at that time. He plans QRP tx's and a really good receiver but because of available space, small is beautiful as far as antennas are concerned.

His recent return (Christmas) found the family in Winchester buying a violin for young Jason (8 yrs) and Sue is charged with the duties of digging out a decent tutor. Meanwhile the house is full of strange squeaky sounds.

"I must admit that when I can send several megabytes of data over te lines or airways in minutes, Morse could not hope to compete. But why should it? For the same reason, why do we have access to Voice, Fax, SSTV, FSTV etc in our licences? To provide a choice and a variety of modes to communicate by - that's why. So lets convince people who don't understand to leave us Morsemen be and simply encourage them to come and join us and learn to enjoy practicing this form of communications art." Amateur Radio Operators are communicators and probably have a much wider, balanced view of the world than some of these 'armchair & TV news-bound' types who simply sit and pontificate.

## SILENT KEYS

G3KJX was kind enough to advise me of the death of John, G0CQA of Little Crakehall (Bedale) who was 71 years of age and died suddenly on 12 Jan. He was rather late in attaining his license but was a life long listener and obtained much pleasure from his radio. It is also a sad chore for me to report the passing of another of our members and in this case it is Bob G4SMR who died February 23rd following his admission into hospital the previous day. The usual condolences extended to both families.

## THE CENTURY AWARD

Who said this was hard to get??? N8FU (the N.A. QSL Mgr) dropped a line to Bob G0FRL with another claim. This makes 5 in total.

## AGM 1995

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Cemetery Hotel, Cemetery Rd., Darwen at 1930 on 7 March. Nominations for officers must be presented in writing on or before 6 March 1995.

## DIT DIT

Bill G2AKK recalls that during WW2 in his job as radio snooper, he found that the German aircrew ops broke the hallowed rules as frequently as their British counterparts. This proved productive however because whilst listening to traffic from a Luftwaffe group it was noticed that at odd intervals there was a "dit dit" sent by one of the aircraft followed by the same signal from the others in the group. After counting them a couple times, it was devined that there were perhaps 15 in the group. When the final "dit dit" had been heard, a "dit dit" was interjected on the key by himself (the tx was always tuned to the appropriate frequency) and it could be well imagined what the German group leader said when the wireless op reported the fact that they appeared to have one aircraft too many. What then happened was the w/o called a barrel report (each aircraft giving it's own callsign). Thus Bill and his crew were able to ascertain the exact number in the group and from the callsigns; that it was (perhaps) Kampfgeschwader 100. Someone was due a firebomb raid as they were known as the "Lamplighters" but the resultant information enabled fighter control to intercept and reduce the size of the group before they reached their target and it all came from a couple of "dits".

## THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G0KCA John has been doing his stuff in the name of cw. He has just received the EUCW Award at QRP level for 100 cw club stations confirmed which is numbered 002 so it would seem he is the 2nd station only to receive the award. I QSP thanks to G4FAI on his behalf since it was Tony that got the thing off the ground in the first place. Hi,. He has also been renovating a CP5 vertical, currently resonated at ground level but which will grace his redundant stack come spring. G4UHM. Steve got out the crystal ball in an endeavour to devine what page 3/4 of the newsletter may contain but to no avail. Sorry about that. We had quite a number of spoils and blanks with a feeding problem on the offset printer and Jack (G4RLB) had to sort 'em out hence the odd hiccup. The beam is now aloft but due to high winds has spent more time on a contracted level than at operation height. Gill reports a better report than average with SM3BCS though so could be a boon. Obtained the usual GB5TT for the PACC Contest but fears poor support due to the PA flooding. Steve, I sent you a full working list instead of the members list. If you find it cumbersome then pse repeat the disc and I will send the correct version.

**G3INA.** Hi Ron, long time no hear. Says he has been QRL of late but not as QRL as someone 'cos Grandchild Nr 6 due in 3 weeks courtesy youngest lass who resides in DL. **G0LWI.** "Morse is music to my ears" says Frank but confesses he is still a learner. **PA3AFF** Hi Piet. QSL's no problem since Bob frequently turns up just to harass me. Piets activity during the Nov EUCW QSO party gave us a boost since he plugged the club plenty. He is a HSC member but takes delight in QRS activity for the novices just to give these stations the feeling that cw is fun at each speed. He discloses that he plays in a brass band and concurs re my obs on rhythm. **G0EEJ.** Alice. It was my pleasure flower and I am glad you have at last got things sorted out. Incidentally, I have a number of Elmers here QRX since when I sent 'em off and tried to phone I got nowhere. I take it you would like to make the presentations personally? Alice has a problem since she has moved into sheltered accommodation and outside antennas are verboten. She is chary of a loop indoors since her dog who is blind may well suffer if she wanders too close. Don't think it will harm her Alice especially if it is mounted up out of reach and you use QRP or otherwise moderate levels. **W1CFZ.** Obs noted Russ and I am sure they are aware of the article though they have not mentioned it. Includes piccy of Navy VLF cw/data stn in Cutler (Maine). 7 miles long and sporting a gaggle of 300' towers. They don't do things by halves in Maine Hi. Tried a scan Russ but those towers were all but invisible. **G3IRM.** Peter circulates a letter amongs his CCW membership explaining that he will be writing a bi-monthly column in The Digital Journal and that his news letters will now be replaced by this. "Since cw (and ccw) can now be sent and received by means of a computer the method of operation is very much like RTTY etc. It is still the most basic digital mode which justifies its inclusion in a magazine devoted to digital modes in general". **G0HGA.** Angie has purchased a used HF5V which she hopes to erect shortly and also plans a centre-fed 66'. You lose a wee bit on 80 Angie but it aint bad for all that. **DK7QB.** I have a 'mugshot' of this whiskery person (he's got more hair on his chin than on his head) and not a mic in sight. I will include asap.

## The Insect Filter

A variable bandwidth filter with a very narrow bandpass. Ideal for weak signals and poor band conditions.

SAE for further details and special FISTS prices to:

S. Dodson.  
G3PPD

The Haven, Lound Rd.,  
BLUNDESTON,  
NR32 5AT  
Tel: 0502 732322

## NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

by WZ8C - Ms. Nancy Kott  
P.O. Box 47, Hadley MI 4844-0047

WZ8C @ KF8JS.#NEMI.MI.USA.NA  
Phone : 1-810-797-5388



Hello FISTS!

Sorry this is delayed, but I've been busy with my Civic Obligation, aka Jury Duty, then I had a bout with the flu! Geo had E-mailed the Keynote across the Pond a couple weeks ago, but I have been too bushed at the end of the day to do anything about it. I was assigned to a Civic trial (as opposed to a criminal one) which dragged out for days. An 82 yr old lady was suing the fanciest restaurant in town for negligence (to the tune of \$45,000) because she tripped on a step and fell, breaking a bone in her foot. There were only 6 jurors and we had to reach an agreement among 5 of the 6 of us. I feel sorry for the OJ jurors - there was so much to remember in two days of testimony, I don't see how it's possible to do justice to a case that drags out for months! We "argued" for 3 hours during our deliberation, each of us had a different opinion, and we all wanted to do the right thing! It was the first time I had been involved in a trial and it was a very educational experience, I enjoyed it, even though it was emotionally draining. When it was over, I ran into the Prosecuting Attorney in the parking lot and we had a long discussion about the proceedings. He was a relatively young attorney and was interested in hearing my opinion of his presentation and how we arrived at the conclusion we did. (We decided that the restaurant was not negligent) It was so interesting to hear him talk "off the record" and I was glad to be able to explain to him why we didn't agree with the lawsuit. I guess most people don't have the chance to do that, and it was nice to have that "closure" opportunity. Maybe I take this Public Service stuff too seriously, but I think that comes from being a Ham! We are more used to giving of ourselves and our time to the public (most often without recognition or thanks) thru club activities, traffic handling or whatever!! I think Hams are the most Civic minded and unselfish groups of people I know! I am proud to be a member of such a group! With that being out of the way, here is your March Memo:

### Congrats!

Diane **N2QPI** is now Extra class **AA2WG!**

Tim **KB8OHF** is the proud daddy of new harmonic Charles Timothy.. Mom and baby doing FB!

## Sunday QSO Party Report

Jan 1, 1995

*Happy New Year! and condx were terrible!*

**NP2GP, K8LJG, K7WF, KE3NV, KD4FLO, KS4BX, N8FU, KJ5BN.**

Jan 8, 1995

*Much noise and QRM from RTTY contest-three deep!*

**NP2GP, KD4DDI, N4VEF, W7JAW, VY2RB, WZ8C, AA1CA, K9VKY.**

Jan 15, 1995

*Noise, weak signals, rapid skip changes.*

**NP2GP, KE3NV, N2NTO, WO8E, WB9CIS, N8FU, KS4BX.**

Jan 22, 1995

*Nice Party! Condx pretty good for a change.*

**NP2GP, N9LGP, KE3NV, KA1ZVX, N4VEF, N8FU, KD4FLO, WB2FXK, AA0IQ, KS4BX, N2PLE.**

Jan 19, 1995

*Condx good, and some nice signals.*

**NP2GP, KJ5BN, N4VEF, KE3NV, K7WF, N8IAG, KC7DQV, KS4BX, N8FU.**

Sent in by Don KC4UUG, host of Sunday QSO Party

### SUNDAY QSO PARTY "RULES"

With FISTS growing so quickly and more people wanting to join in the QSO Party (the more the merrier!) Don has had to do some thinking about the best way to handle the crowds.

On Feb 12, there were a record number of 19 check-ins! To quote Don, "as a result of this, it bumped and rattled along on the brink of anarchy for the whole afternoon. Some members did not have much opportunity to make QSO's and I was still taking check-ins as the band was closing!"

We don't want to change the tone of the Party into a formal net, but some structuring has to be done so it will be more efficient and allowing for more check-ins and QSO's to be made.

In the future Parties, Don will take a list of Check-Ins. After getting the list, he will read the list so everyone will know when their turn is coming up, and who else is in the group. When your turn comes, you may make ONE call for a contact. After your QSO, turn it back to Don who will call the next person on the list, who will make one call.

Every two or so QSOs Don will call for more check-ins, which will be added in turn to the bottom of the list. Hopefully this will cut down on the waiting time to get recognized. Relay help is welcome and necessary to help things run efficiently.

There have been some questions about a contact being valid for the Century Award. For example, a new FISTS has sent his application/subs to me, but I haven't processed their paperwork yet, so they don't know their number. Contacts with this person WOULD count toward the award. Just because I am behind in my paperwork shouldn't penalize the new member. I do try and get out the numbers and certificates as they come in, but lately I have been getting 2 and 3 a day, and with work and jury duty, I'm a few weeks behind.

You can always fill in the persons new FISTS number from the Welcome To The New FISTS column in the next Keynote.

If you have any questions/comments about the new "Rules" for the Sunday QSO Party, drop Don a note at 6500 Snapper Creek, Miami, FL 33143-7938.

The QSO Party starts at 2000 UTC and will remain at 2000 UTC even when the country turns to Daylight Savings Time. Freq. is 14.058 +/- QRM.

ALSO!!! Please remember to support the Saturday Morning QSO Party, hosted by Maggie NP2GP, who is usually Maritime Mobile from the Virgin Islands. It is also on 14.058 MHz +/- QRM and starts around 1500 UTC.

Everyone is welcome in the QSO Parties! If you need them to slow down ASK!!! "PSE QRS" As Geo is fond of saying, the speed of the fleet is the speed of the slowest ship.

### OTHER NEW NETS

Thursday 0100 UTC, which is 8PM Wednesday EST on 3.720 +/- QRM.

Monday evenings at 2100Z on 28.170 MHz (conditions permitting), Slow Speed 10 meter net.

\*See article in this issue about the Slow Speed Traffic Net moving to 80 meters.

### POETRY CORNER

Didit dum dum didit  
CW from city to city  
Some weak, some strong  
Code we belong.  
Band to band  
Local and other lands  
Always there  
CW sometimes smooth  
But there  
Sometimes fast  
But there  
Sometimes chirpy  
But there  
The message gets thru  
Bits and pieces  
Sometimes hard to repair  
But there  
The clitter clatter of  
Brass pounders splatter  
But there  
The message seems to get thru  
Again and again  
But there  
The brass pounders dream  
gets better and better  
with every letter  
But there  
The message seems to get  
There.

by Richard KE4HZM



## KC1MI will be back on soon!

I received a very nice note and photos from John KC1MI, who has been very busy getting his 80 and 160 meter antenna ready to go, and waiting for good wx to install it. He is also running a separate 220V line for the shack so he can run the legal limit on ALL bands, as needed. He is having a fully licensed electrical and inspector check it all out to make sure it all goes on the record with official documentation. He'd rather be safe than sorry in case of an electrical fire! John likes one of the "Henry" amps with full QSK. The shack looks very FB John, I can't wait till we get a scanner and can include photos in the Memo! John also wishes to pass along his "73" to all, and looks forward to checking into the Nets and QSO parties after he is back up and running.

## Welcome to the New FISTS

1556: **KF8RG** Ken in Shelby Twp, MI sponsored by **WN8MWM** enjoys camping, fishing, biking, backpacking and building wooden ship models.

1557: **K4DRD** Stan in San Mateo CA sponsored by **WZ8C** through the HamNet forum in CompuServe is a private pilot, enjoys sailing, photography and QRP.

1558: **N3LBC** Joe in Lansford PA, sponsored by **AA8HV** via packet collects IOTA and prefixes for WPX.

1559: **AD4KX** Harry in Augusta GA, sponsored by **E15BW** enjoys reading, fishing and woodcarving.

1560: **N1SEZ** Paul in Gaylordsville CT, sponsored by **WZ8C** thru the HamNet didn't list any other hobbies, but runs a Ten-Tec Onmi 6 to a multiband dipole.

1561: **KQ4IY** Ray in Hendersonville NC, sponsored by **WZ8C** is active on CW traffic nets and started a code practice net on 10 meters for local hams. He also likes Vibroplex bugs and uses an original deluxe.

1562: **KC5HXP** Ron from Wichita Falls, TX.

1563: **AB5TY** Macalee in Goldthwaite TX is sponsored by **KB0ZE**. Aubrey says she is really gung-ho on CW!

1564: **N3CUD** Roberta in Wilmington DE, sponsored by **WZ8C** likes hiking, RVing, TaiChi, history, movies, and is working on building a NorCal 40.

1565: **W2ESX** John in Mt. Holly NJ, sponsored by **K8OUA** is into genealogy auto racing (Int'l Official), hiking and bird watching.

1566: **NA9A** Joe in St. Charles IL used an application he got in Dayton last year! He runs a Knwd TS940AT and a Yaesu 757GX to a G5RV, KT-34XA and 40M-4.

1567: **KB7YWJ** Jim in Riverton WY, sponsored by **AA8HV** via packet likes fishing camping boating and motorcycling.

1568: **AC6IZ** Greg in Irvine CA, sponsored by **WZ8C** from the HamNet likes computers and has a Knwd TS450S/AT to an Inverted Vee for 40/20/15/10.

1569: **AA1HJ** Dave in Newton NH, sponsored by **AA8HV** is into computer programming and QRP.

1570: **KF2ON** Bill in Edison NJ sponsored by **WZ8C** likes operating /mm on Chesapeake Bay from his sailboat using the rig he installed last summer.

1571: **N8UJZ** Mike in Weston WV, sponsored by

**N4VEF** creates stained glass objects, and just started collecting "bug" type keys.

1572: **KC5GXL** Don in Orange TX, sponsored by **W9X** makes scale model r/c ships, likes fishing, hockey and astronomy.

1573: **AA3JV** Craig from Dillsburg PA, sponsored by **KN4OA** enjoys mobile CW, key collecting (vibroplex bugs are his favorite) and computers.

1574: **N3BTM** John in Pasadena MD, sponsored by **WB2FXK**, enjoys QRP with his Paragon to a fullwave 80 meter loop, and biking and hiking.

1575: **KB7RW** Brian in Longview WA, sponsored by **N7CFA** likes computers and has a Knwd TS 830S to an all band inverted-vee.

1576: **KP4DJ** Willie in Rio Piedras Puerto Rico, sponsored by Maggie **NP2GP**, has been a member of ARRL for 63 years!

1577: **N2YKH** Bill in Southold NY, sponsored by **KB2QLK** was a radio op in US Navy '42-'47 and went on the air as a ham for the first time in Dec '93.

1578: **AA9DK** Greg in Munster IN, sponsored by **N2CG** likes fishing for steelhead trout and salmon. His fav keys are his 2 **G4ZPY**-VHS's.

1579: **N9MCQ** Mark in Chicago IL, sponsored by **N9DSP** was one of the first 'no-code' techs, but after he got his callsign (**N9MorseCQ**!) he figured destiny was calling and got his extra!

1580: **K1ARO** Dick in Simsbury CT sponsored by **WD8OCV** didn't list any other interests, but from his list of rigs, I bet he likes homebrewing! Pair of 807's in PA, pair of 6L6GC's in PA and a solid state QRP homebrew rig to a center fed zepp.

1581: **KE4GT** Jim in Huntsville AL, sponsored by **AA8HV** is into QRP and uses a Backpacker II & Ramsey Qamp for 30m and Knwd TS520SE and NE-QRPs 40-40 almost ready to use with his dipoles.

1582: **KB8OOM** Sam in Struthers OH, sponsored by **KN4OA** enjoys calligraphy, fishing and camping.

1583: **W3ZIF** Roy in Allentown PA, sponsored by **AA8HV** via packet enjoys Avionics, computers, ping-pong, biking and audio/video taping at his church.

1584: **KB0QVB** "Smitty" in O'Fallon MO, sponsored by **WB2FXK**, is writing his autobiography, researching his family tree and likes computers.

1585: **WA2FVL** John in Union Beach NJ, sponsored by **WA8BIJ** likes camping in his travel trailer, photography, motorcycling and politics.

We are growing at phenomenal rate! By the time you read this, I will probably have gotten another 10 new FISTS!! Thanks to all who have been telling your CW friends about FISTS, and helping to spread the word about the club. I think word-of-mouth is the best endorsement we could have. I'm almost afraid to think what's going to happen to our numbers after Dayton this April! Don't get me wrong, I am thrilled that we are growing, but I can remember a time when we only had about 20 North American members and we ALL knew each other by name!

Those were the days, hi!



I just put a QRP rig on line for \$69.95. It has a LED readout, built in keyer, dual VFO's, RIT, memories and covers all bands. It's called the Yaesu FT-890. Wait a minute? Don't they cost a lot more than \$69.95? The rigs themselves do cost quite a bit more. But I didn't say I "bought" it, I said I put the rig "on line" for \$69.95. The story goes like this:

Back in my misspent youth (about 2 years ago), I got the notion that I would like to chase U.S. counties by working a SSB net on 14.336. I purchased a FT-890 and installed it in my car. Well, as you can imagine, working SSB in a car is similar to working SSB at home - boring. I took the rig out of the car and used it as a "standby" rig.

You all know what a "standby" rig is. It's a rig you paid a lot of money for and can't sell without losing your pants. (And besides, the first rule of Ham Radio is "You shalt not sell any Ham Radio stuff you bought.") The second rule is "Buy more stuff as soon as you can think of a good excuse.") Saying to your wife, "This is the radio that I paid a lot of money for and as a result we could not go to Hawaii last year and because I really did not need it in the first place I don't use it, but if I sell it now I would lose my pants." would result in various acts of violence practiced upon your person. So, you simply point to the rig and with obvious pride in your voice pronounce: "This is my "standby" rig." In any event, everyone knows that a "standby" rig does just that- it stands by, doing absolutely nothing until you drop it while you are moving it to make room for your next "standby" rig.

Therefore, I decided to utilize my standby rig by taking it with me on business trips and using it as a QRP rig. To do this, I was able to invoke the second rule of Ham Radio and buy a new power supply. The power supply I picked out was an Astron SL-11A. The SL-11A is only 2 5/8" tall and 9 3/4" long and 7 5/8" wide. This enables it to be fairly portable for hotel situations. The FT-890 is not much larger, and with my new MFJ-971 QRP tuner, makes a good setup for business trips. It puts out 11 amps. The first time I set it up, using a 33 foot long wire, I could not hear much at all. I only made one contact, with Armon, K4FOM in Naples, Florida. (Oddly enough, I had just had a QSO with Armon from my home station two days before!). He gave me a 339, which was probably generous. I decided that perhaps I needed a ground.

On my next trip I brought along a pair of auto battery jumper cables. I clamped one end to tuner and rig and the other end to a cold water pipe. When I turned on the rig this time, the band was full of signals. I immediately made several contacts and had a good time with the rig. I do not have a CW filter in the rig, so that is my next upgrade. (There's that second rule again.) Other than the wide filtering, the setup works pretty well and I am very pleased with it. The FT-890 makes

a real nice QRP rig as it can be turned down to about 3 1/2 watts output. One of the problems with the rig, however, is that it is a power hog. It consumes 1 1/2 amps just on receive. Gel cell operation is out of the question. But for hotel situations the rig is fine.

I would rather have the FT-890 than a large expensive dedicated QRP rig because the FT-890 has the option of turning up the power for DX'ing and ragchews. Luckily I was able to reactivate my standby rig and avoided breaking any of the rules of Ham Radio.

I still have FISTS CW Mugs available. They really do look neat. Cobalt blue with the FISTS Club insignia in gold. I am providing them at cost, \$6.50 UPS'd to you. Use my callbook address.

73 es GL de Joe, **AA8HV**

*Check out Joe's shack in the March issue of World Radio magazine, Congrats Joe, It looks great!! Nancy*

## TRAFFIC HANDLING DEMYSTIFIED

I feel like the little boy who finally got a basketball for Christmas, only to find out the only way he could score was by using a ladder. After all the hoopla about the FISTS Slow Net, and my excitement and anticipation on the evening of that net's first session on February 28, the first session was a total bust!

Forty meters was a totally inappropriate site for that first meeting, as I could hear no other stations, and evidently, no other stations could hear me as I called "CQ FSN" over and over again. Still, just like the little boy with the basketball, we aren't giving up, we're just changing our strategy a bit.

Instead of 7.110 MHz, we've decided to move the net to a more traditional location, the 80 meter novice band - 3.682.

To help newcomers check into the net, I have prepared the following summary of the procedures to use when checking into the FISTS Slow Net:

- 1) The net is controlled by a Net Control Station (NCS) who will call the net together at the appointed time and frequency. Usually, she will send a brief introduction and welcome to the net, calling the net into session. This is how FISTS NCSs will do this — CQ FSN THE FISTS SLOW NET PART OF FISTS CW CLUB ALL WELCOME QND QNZ PSE QNN (Call and name of NCS) QNI GE FISTS DE (Call of NCS) QNI K. In this greeting QND means that the net is a directed net under the control of the NCS, QNZ means "zero-beat the signal of the NCS", QNN means "the Net Control Station is ...", QNI means "Net stations check-in".
- 2) When the NCS has asked stations to QNI (check in), it is time for them to do just that. Normally, a station wanting to check in sends a short signal that indicates he is ready to QNI. Usually this is the first or last letter of the suffix of the call, for example, I usually send the letter 'O'.
- 3) The NCS will respond with the same letter or sym-

bol, and that is the signal to check into the net — the NCS is saying, in effect, "I recognize that you want to check in, who are you and what traffic do you have?" 4) Now comes the moment of truth, check in. To do so, simply send your call a quick greeting to the NCS (to let her know you appreciate her!), a short message to indicate whether or not you have traffic, and what State it's for. QRU is the signal for "I have no traffic", while QTC means "I have traffic for ...." If I was checking into a net run by Mike, N8JIY, and if I had no traffic, I would send: 'DE K8OUA GE MIKE QRU K', which translates to 'This is K8OUA, Good evening Mike, I have no traffic, go ahead'. If I did have traffic for, say, a station in Michigan, I would send: 'DE K8OUA GE MIKE QTC MI 1', which translates to 'This is K8OUA, good evening Mike, I have one piece of traffic for Michigan, go ahead'. The '1' after the state symbol indicates that I have one piece of traffic for that state. And that's it. You've checked into the net.

5) If you have no traffic to send, and if the NCS has no traffic for you, then you just wait and listen until the NCS excuses you from the net (QNX — 'You are excused from the net'). It is bad operating practice to leave the net without the permission of the NCS. If you must leave early, tell the NCS — send the suffix of your call and 'QNX 73 DE (your call)' and the NCS will excuse you. Likewise, if, when you check in you know that you have only a short time for the net, sign in and send 'SHORT TIME' so that the NCS can let you go early.

6) If you do have traffic, or if there is traffic for you to take, that's another story. The NCS will locate someone to take your traffic from you and tell both of you to QNY (same as QSY) up or down so many KHz, to QNK (transmit the message). Usually the NCS uses only the suffixes of calls to save time. For example, if she was referring to K8OUA, she would send only 'OUA'.

7) After you have transmitted or received the message(s), return to the net frequency and let the NCS know that you're back by sending the suffix of your call during a lull in the activity.

8) Net control will then either excuse you from the net, ask you to wait (AS), or give you more traffic to take.

Here's an example of exchanges on the FSN that might take place. N8JIY is NCS, K8OUA checks in with one piece of traffic for Michigan, and KB8RHG, Sara, from Michigan, checks in with no traffic. A translation follows each exchange.

N8JIY: CQ FSN THE FISTS SLOW NET PART OF FISTS CW CLUB ALL WELCOME QND QNZ PSE QNN N8JIY/MIKE QNI GE FISTS DE N8JIY QNI K. (CQ FSN, The FISTS Slow Net, a part of FISTS CW Club, all are welcome, the net is directed, please zero, beat my signal, Net Control is N8JIY, Mike, Check in now, Good evening FISTS, this is N8JIY, Check In, Go ahead. K8OUA: O (I'm here) N8JIY: O (Who are you and what traffic do you have?) K8OUA: DE K8OUA GE MIKE QTC MI 1 (This is K8OUA, Good evening Mike, I have one message for Michigan. N8JIY: GE

PETE K8OUA R AS (Good evening Pete, K8OUA, I copy you, now wait) KB8RHG: R (I'm here too) N8JIY: R (Who are you and what traffic do you have?) KB8RHG: DE KB8RHG GE MIKE QRU (KB8RHG here, good evening Mike, I have none) N8JIY: HI SARA KB8RHG QNU R AS OUA (Hi Sara, the net has traffic for you, now wait, K8OUA, you still there?) K8OUA: HR (I'm here) N8JIY: RHG (KB8RHG, you there?) KB8RHG: C (Yes) N8JIY: PSE QNY DOWN SEVEN D 7 QNK MI 1 (Please move down 7 KHz, transmit the message for Michigan) K8OUA: G (Going) KB8RHG: G (Me too, I'm going) After K8OUA has passed the traffic to KB8RHG, they will return to the net frequency. K8OUA: OUA (K8OUA here, I'm back) N8JIY: OUA AS (K8OUA OK, Wait) KB8RHG: RHG (KB8RHG here, I'm back too) N8JIY: RHG NW QRU QNX TNX QTC 88 K (KB8RHG there's no more traffic for you, you are excused from the net, thanks for checking in with your traffic, 88) KB8RHG: TU MIKE 88 DE KB8RHG (Thanks Mike, 88, this is KB8RHG) N8JIY: OUA (K8OUA you still there?) K8OUA: HR (I'm here) N8JIY: QRU TNX QNI QNX 73 K (No more traffic for you, thanks for checking in, now you're excused from the net, 73) K8OUA: TNX MIKE HV GUD DAY 73 DE K8OUA (Thanks Mike, Have a good day, 73, This is K8OUA)

When a station checks into the net for the first time, the NCS will usually ask for his/her name and QTH at some point during the session. After you've been excused from the net, that's it! At that point you'll have had your first QNI into a cw traffic net, and a whole new world of camaraderie, public service, and satisfaction in your operating will have opened up to you.

We look forward to having you check in with us on the **FISTS Slow Net on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2100 EST (0200Z next day) on 3682 KHz (+ or - for QRM)**. Till we see you on the nets, 73 es ARF, from Pete K8OUA

### More on Dit Dit

Ron WZ0W has a comment on what he thinks may have been the origin of the "dit dit" sent at the end of a CW QSO. "It was interesting that Geo brought this up because I have thought about it too. When I was first licensed and using the Novice bands a QSO was often ended with the little finale tune: Dit! dit-dit-dit-DIT: DIT! DIT! This was often corrupted to just the final dit dit, which I understand to mean bye, bye. I always send it for that reason. South Dakota video lottery machines play those seven notes when the money you put in them is gone."

WZ0W also comments that he tried to get in on the Saturday gathering, but failed again. He could copy NP2GP faintly and heard her side of a QSO with KC4UUG, but couldn't hear him. He gave up when a California station hit him at 40 over. Don't give up, Ron!

## FISTS Activity Coordinator

Pete **K8OUA** has graciously agreed to help me out by coordinating FISTS activities. There has been a lot of requests for on-the-air "confidence builders" and opportunities for meeting other FISTS. DON'T Panic! We aren't suggesting that FISTS turn into a contesting club. We just want to start up some activities that we hope will become yearly FISTS traditions. Pete has made up a year-in-advance calendar with suggestions of FISTS sponsored events and other contests CW ops might be interested in. Look them over, and let us know what you think! Pete will be at the Eyeball Party on Friday nite in Dayton, or you can reach him through the call book, or CompuServe number 76022,2303.

APRIL-- 8-9 QRP ARCI Spring CW QSP Party (Check QST for details)

28-30 Dayton HamVention! Check out the FISTS booth and the informal get together on the evening of April 28.

MAY-- 6-7 FISTS Spring Sprint - watch the Keynote for more info on the first FISTS CW Contest

27-28 CQWW WPX DX contest CW

JUNE-- 24-25 ARRL Field Day -- get together a FISTS group and challenge the rest of us

JULY -- 1 RAC Canada Day Contest - join with the VE FISTS for this test

8-9- IARU World Championship ( check QST for details)

SEPT -- Special Event Certificates-- commemorating the anniversary of amateur radio, and the anniversary of the founding of FISTS

OCT -- 7-8 FISTS Fall Sprint

21-22 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test-- surprise our SSB friends by putting a basketfull of CW traffic into the system

NOV -- 4-6 ARRL Sweepstakes CW Contest- try it QRP and score 10 pts for each contact!

DEC -- 31-- Straight Key night.

If Pete's left out one of your favorites, don't sit and brew about it, let him know and we'll include it next time! Other types of contests/ special events suggestions are most welcome! What can you think of that would make the club more active and fun?

### Feb QSO Party Report

Don KC4UUG reports that things are much improved with his introduction of new rules for the QSO Party. He is still developing the system and will have a full report ready for the April Keynote. The list system is working, and more FISTS are being accomodated, so hang in there and keep checking in!

Feb 5, 1995 Maggie signing NP2GP/4 while visiting at KC4UUG. Was NCS depended on who was sitting at the rig! Check-ins: N4VEF, KC7DQV, N8FU, NP2GP/4, KE3NV, N1NGM, KS4BX, NW8X, KJ5BN

Feb 12 A megaparty with good condx all afternoon. NCS had his thumb stuck in the dike, but drowned when the incoming tide washed over the sea wall!

Check-ins: NP2GP, N8IAG, N4VEF, N2PLE, NP2GQ,

KC7DQV, KI4SJ, KE3NV, KR4VQ, WB2FXK, N2NTO, VY2RB, WO8E, KE4HZM, N1DNM, AD4KX, N9JIY, KF5BN.

Feb 19 No party today, ARRL DX contest in progress

Feb 26 Weak signals and QRM. This was the first party conductetd with new "list" rules.

NP2GP, N8FU, NA8G, W7JAW, KE3NV, W2FB, N8UJZ, N4VEF, WO8E, VY2RB, N2PLE, N8IAG

## Solving the Time Problem

OK! OK! OK! I will try and use UTC when talking about net/QSO Party times! Stop yelling at me, I get the idea, HI!! I agree that using UTC is the only way to go, specially when we get into the situation of Daylight Savings Time. But when I make a calendar, it goes against my 'common sense' to put a net that starts at 0100Z Thursday in the Thursday square. By the time a FISTS looks at the Thursday square for things to do that day, the net will have already happened on Wednesday! How do we get past THAT problem?

John N8FU took the time to explain the conversion of UTC to standard time, and I am including it here for the benefit of all who need further clarification!

"To solve any time difference problems, you should keep your logs in UTC(GMT/Universal/Zulu). When you work DX and send/receive QSLs it is sure easy for you or the person on the other end to find it in a log. Small LED clocks may be purchased for under \$20 which have two clocks side by side with one for your local time and one for UTC. If you do not want to do this, just put a sign by your station clock, which is set to local time, to show the conversion factor. The only thing you have to watch is the date change at 2400 UTC. Even as far as a card fro the US, it is easier to find it in your log if the OM uses UTC instead of his local time. Remember, UTC clock is never changed once set, but those people like myself who go thru daylight savings time in the warmer months have to adjust their local clocks twice a year.

To change from: **PST to UTC add 8 hours**

**MST to UTC add 7 hours**

**CST to UTC add 6 hours**

**EST to UTC add 5 hours**

*If in Daylight Saving Time use 1 hour less.*

*For example in EST: 1900 (7PM ) is 0000 UTC tomorrow*

*EDST: 2000 (8PM) is 0000 UTC tomorrow*

It also goes along with proper time keeping to keep everything in 24 hour format to cut down on confusion." *Thanks John! And THANK YOU for the FB job you are doing with the FISTS QSL Buro. If you don't understand how the bureau works, drop John a note.*

## FINALE

I didn't have space to include a lot of topics I wanted to cover this month, especially the FISTS proposal you voted on! I want to keep the newLetter to 12 pages, plus the long awaited member list, so I decided to put that topic off till April. If you have any Dayton announcements U want to print in the April Keynote get them to me ASAP, pse! Take care 73/88 Nancy WZ8C

April 1995

# FISTS ACTIVITIES

March

May

s m t w t f s s m t w t f s  
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 5 6  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
26 27 28 29 30 31 28 29 30 31

S

M

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April Fool's Day  
Sat AM QSO  
Party NP2GP  
14.058 / 1500Z

HOLYLAND DX CONTEST

SP-DX CW CONTEST

Daylight Savings Time begins  
(Set clocks ahead one hour)  
KCYUG QSO  
Party 2000Z  
14.058 MHz

DID  
YOU SPRING  
FORWARD  
ONE HOUR  
?

SLOW NET 4  
3.682 MHz  
9pm EDT

KC5DUI 5  
SLOW NET  
7.135 MHz

6  
SLOW NET 7  
3.682 MHz  
0100Z  
WIAW qualifying  
Run 10pm EDT  
WEST COAST 3.590 MHz  
qualifying run (0400)

Palin Sunday  
KCYUG QSO  
Party 2000Z  
14.058

10

11  
FISTS SLOW  
NET 3.682  
0100Z  
actual  
EDT 9pm  
K-DX4L - NAYL CW CONTEST

12  
FISTS SLOW  
NET 3.682  
0100Z  
KC5DUI  
SLOW NET  
7.135 0200Z

13  
1987: World Bank adopts  
environmental reforms  
proposed by EDF  
K-DX4L - NAYL CW CONTEST

Good Friday  
FSNet 14

Passover  
NP2GP 15  
QSO Party  
14.058  
1500Z

Easton Sunday  
1991: EDF-McDonald's  
waste reduction task force  
report issued  
14.058, 2000Z  
QSO Party  
KCYUG

17

18  
FSNet 19  
0100Z  
3.682

20  
FSNet 21

22  
Earth Day  
25th Anniversary  
NP2GP  
QSO Party 1500Z  
14.058

23  
NP2GP 29  
QSO Party  
14.058 1500Z

Go EASY ON THE EASTER CANDY!

14.058 23  
2000Z 30  
QSO Party  
KCYUG

24

25  
FSNet 26  
0100Z  
3.682

27  
FSNet 28

29  
NP2GP 29  
QSO Party  
14.058 1500Z

(23)